

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Transfer to Dessau-Rosslau of the Units with Special Amphibious Vehicles

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from Eberswalde and Sperenberg

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 21 June 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 30 May 1955, at least 12, presumably 24 half-track amphibious vehicles, 16 to 18 trucks with pontoons and approximately 10 other trucks were entrained at the Eberswalde railroad station and left northward.
2. At 1455 on 30 May, a train carrying 19 large canvas-covered amphibious vehicles, 3 small amphibious vehicles, 2 field kitchens and, on 2 boxcars, an undetermined number of personnel passed through the Satzkorn railroad station en route from the direction of Wildpark toward Jueterbog. A similar shipment went in the same direction at 1215.
3. At 1915 on 30 May, a train carrying 13 three-axle amphibious vehicles, similar to DUKW-353s but with cowlings also over their rear wheels, 12 canvas-covered vehicles, presumably amphibious vehicles of the same type, about 10 trucks and, on 10 boxcars, an undetermined number of soldiers was seen at the Medewitz railroad station ready to depart toward Dessau. The amphibious vehicles were 10 to 12 meters long and had no superstructures. A wooden support ran on either side of the vehicles.
4. On 29/30 May, the following shipments for Dessau - Rosslau were entrained in Eberswalde:
 a shipment of 20 flatcars with track-laying amphibious vehicles and boxcars with soldiers.
 a shipment of 46 flatcars with armored personnel carriers and trucks and boxcars with soldiers.
5. At about 1100 on 28 May, a train of 26 flatcars, each carrying a large amphibious vehicle, was seen on the spur track to the barracks installation on Schumke Lake (341) near Kummerdorf. At about 1700, a second shipment of 12 to 15 flatcars, each carrying an amphibious vehicle, was seen on the same track. The amphibious vehicles were covered by tarpaulins except for the two front wheels with tracks. They were some 10 meters long, about 2 meters high and had armored side plates.

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6. On 28 May, the following rail shipments was loaded at the Kaserne on Schumke Lake near Kummerdorf: 30 DUKW-type amphibious vehicles, 25 track-laying amphibious vehicles, all covered by tarpaulins, 8 trucks, 2 trailers, 4 sedans,

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1 tank truck. 2 signal vehicles. 1 supply truck and 9 boxcarloads of soldiers.

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The train left the Spereberg railroad station toward Jueterbog. On 30 May, 5 boxcars with approximately 20 soldiers and 1 track-laying amphibious vehicle were shunted in the barracks installation on Schumke Lake. On 1 June, the installation was occupied by 1,400 to 1,500 soldiers wearing black-bordered and blue-bordered black epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets with construction engineer and motor transport insignia. It is assumed that the decrease of the occupation resulted from the rail shipments which left on 20, 21 and 28 May. Soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were repeatedly seen with track-laying amphibious vehicles. Fifteen to 20 amphibious vehicles, most of them

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in the area. Some 23 German pontoons and 15 German pontoons were of a light-colored

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were seen en route to and from the installation.

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7.

the installation was only lightly occupied and that approximately 10 shipments with vehicles including track-laying amphibious vehicles had left the installation during the preceding 2 weeks. On 3 June, the installation appeared to be occupied by some 400 soldiers wearing black-bordered black and red-bordered black epaulets. No track-laying amphibious vehicles were seen.

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Comment.

Between 28 and 30 May, 2 shipments from Eberswalde and 3 shipments from Spereberg went to the Dessau-Resslau engineer training area. Available observations by various sources definitely indicate that the bulk of the two special units with track-laying amphibious vehicles from Eberswalde and Spereberg were transferred to the same training area for special exercises.

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Attention is drawn to the following two points.

- 1.. Paragraph 1 (Eberswalde) and 5 (Spereberg) contain concordant information on half-track amphibious vehicles. According to paragraph 4 (Eberswalde), armored personnel carriers were observed.
2. According to paragraph 6, soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were seen in connection with track-laying amphibious vehicles. In addition to engineer soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets. The same observation was previously made in Spereberg and Eberswalde.

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The report again confirms that both, the Third and the Fourth Gds Mecz Army, include a special engineer unit. Compare with information on Spereberg,

and on the arrival in Eberswalde of track-laying amphibious vehicles from the USSR.

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The subordination of the two units and their branch of service could not definitely be determined. According to the first reports from Spereberg, the special engineer unit stationed there was activated from the U/i Engr Regt of GSFG from Bernburg. Therefore, the Eberswalde unit may have been activated from the army engineer regiment stationed there. It is undetermined,

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whether the unit in Sperenberg is directly subordinate to GSFG or whether it belongs to the 35th Engr Regt of the Third Gds Mecz Army. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] On the other hand, the red-bordered black service color with tank insignia tends to indicate that these units are reconnaissance units rather than pure engineer units. The Eberswalde unit is quartered in the same installation with the reconnaissance regiment and not with the engineer regiment. It cannot yet be determined that, in addition to full-track amphibious vehicles [REDACTED] 25X1
in paragraphs 1 and 5 were [REDACTED]
description of a vehicle [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] personnel carriers, it is also possible that the equipment of [REDACTED] engineer units included normal armored personnel carriers, which were previously reported as half-track amphibious vehicles. ILLEGIB

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were seen en route to and from the installation.

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The subordination of the two units and their branch of service could not definitely be determined. According to the first reports from Sperenberg, the special engineer unit stationed there was activated from the U/i Engr Regt of GSR from Bernburg. Therefore, the Eberswalde unit may have been activated from the army engineer regiment stationed there. It is undetermined,

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On the other hand, the red-bordered black service color with tank insignia tends to indicate that these units are reconnaissance units rather than pure engineer units. The Eberswalde unit is quartered in the same installation with the reconnaissance regiment and not with the engineer regiment. It cannot yet be determined that, in addition to full-track amphibious vehicles, the half-track amphibious vehicles mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 5 were accurately observed. Compare with the description of a vehicle from Wittenberg.

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personnel carriers, it is also possible that the equipment of the engineer units included normal armored personnel carriers, which were erroneously reported as half-track amphibious vehicles.

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